

FORD

Washington, D. C.  
17 January 1973

Dear Mr. Ford:

Many thanks for your kind note and my apologies for not acknowledging it sooner. I, too, hope that we can get together and I would much enjoy the opportunity of having lunch with Ambassador Jova and you. My telephone number is  and if you give me a ring, I am sure that we can work something out.

With every good wish,

Faithfully,

Vernon A. Walters  
Lieutenant General, USA

Mr. John W. Ford  
Minister Counselor  
U.S. Permanent Mission  
to the Organization of American States  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C. 20520

UNITED STATES PERMANENT MISSION TO THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

November 2, 1972

*phone*

Lieut. General Vernon A. Walters  
Deputy Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

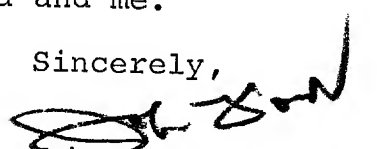
Dear General Walters:

Belatedly, I send my warmest congratulations in your new work. The announcement of your appointment brought back memories of over a decade ago, when we were together at the Hotel Pierre Marques in Acapulco, Mexico at the time of the visit of President Eisenhower to that city.

I have been back in the United States almost five years now and work for Ambassador Joseph John Jova, the Permanent U.S. Representative to the OAS. You might find interesting the attached article which touches upon my current work.

I did want to say hello and to let you know that one of these days soon, I hope you will have time to lunch with Ambassador Jova and me.

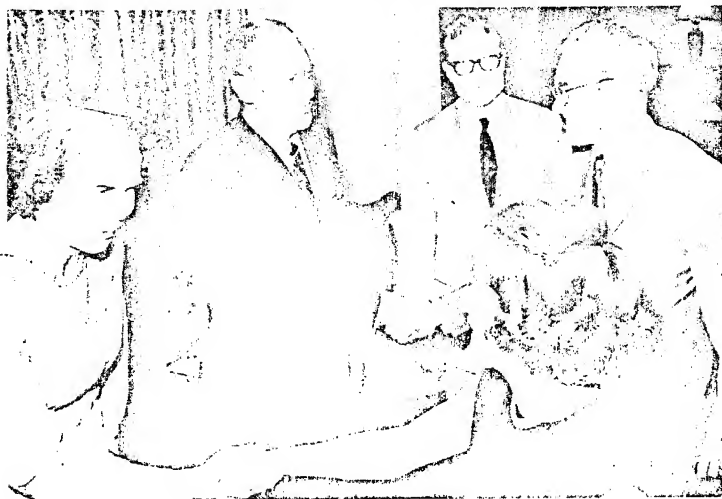
Sincerely,

  
John W. Ford  
Minister Counselor

Enclosure:

As indicated

Grapevine—February 1972



GREETINGS FROM SECRETARY OF STATE—Society member John Ford (right) and Mrs. Ford are welcomed to Washington by Secretary of State and Mrs. William Rogers on their return from an overseas assignment with the Organization of American States.

## Ford Named OAS Minister

Society Member Has Had Wide Variety of Experiences  
In Past 25 Years as U. S. Foreign Service Officer

Like most Foreign Service Officers, John W. Ford (1943-47), who was recently named Minister-Counselor of the United States Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States, has had a wide variety of experiences while serving in the American Foreign Service. These include work with an OAS peace committee in the first war between American republics in 30 years — an undeclared war between El Salvador and Honduras.

### RECALLS MOSCOW MISSION

Recalling some of those experiences over the past 25 years, John catalogues one revolution (Venezuela); two earthquakes (Peru and Mexico); a mission to Moscow which resulted in the discovery of a highly-advanced listening device in the Great Seal of

the United States; an encounter with the late Senator Joseph McCarthy who demanded Ford's removal from an office Directorship; an assignment to Hanoi for phase-out of the U. S. Consulate there just prior to the entry of North Vietnamese Communist forces into the city following the fall of Dien Bien Phu; the visit of the late President Eisenhower to Acapulco, (where Ford was in charge of overall administrative arrangements); and representation of the United States on the OAS Committee of Seven Ambassadors in Central America immediately following the outbreak of war between El Salvador and Honduras. Ford was in the United States when the OAS succeeded in stopping within four days.

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CENTRAL AMERICA PEACE CONFERENCE—John Ford (second from right) meets with OAS Ambassadors and other officials during efforts to bring an end to a Central American war.

### CENTRAL AMERICAN WAR

Writing briefly of his experiences in the early days of the Central American conflict, Ford recorded these impressions during one of his many flights aboard the C-47 bearing OAS insignia, which almost daily carried him between the capitals of Tegucigalpa and San Salvador:

"This was like so many other flights over this rugged, mountainous, volcanic country-side — on missions that one of my companions, Ambassador George Fernandez of Ecuador, liked to call 'the pacification of the spirits.' We could not forget those long nights, working around the clock in the blacked-out capital cities in an attempt to obtain agreement on the cease-fire.

### TENSE MOMENTS

"Initially it was the difficulty of communicating by radio or telephone, which thwarted our efforts. We watched tick away and pass the hour agreed upon for a cease-fire. How many young soldiers lost their lives in both countries simply because we could not communicate and had to await another tragic 24 hours before the time of the cease-fire could be once more established? And another

kind of war had broken out — a very cold war, of misunderstanding, of hate, of discrimination — all best summed up in the Spanish word *odio*.

"Calming the spirits would be a long, hard battle. For this was basically a civil war, between peoples of the same Catholic faith; of the same language; of people inter-married and destined by God to live geographically as neighbors, regardless of what their present family quarrel might be. But the OAS accomplishments thus far really gave us heart: a cease-fire, a troop withdrawal from occupied territory, an exchange of prisoners, a release of civilians from detention camps and all in an effort to heal the wounds created by this tragic war.

"Before takeoff we had learned of the untimely death of one of our helicopter crew in a crash of his ship (and before the war had subsided, yet another military officer was to lose his life in the dangerous business of patrolling the frontier). What the OAS did here, will not be soon forgotten in the history of the slow, frustrating process of international organization cooperation and development."